

Wisconsin Farm to School Newsletter

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Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

July 14, 2015 | Celebrating Summer in Wisconsin

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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Summer abundance in Wisconsin.

General Updates

Local Foods in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Summer is a fantastic time of year to add variety to keep meals tasting great. In many regions across the United States, USDA's [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#) aligns well with the peak growing season, allowing schools and nonprofit organizations to serve products in their freshest state. There are numerous benefits to “bringing the farm” to summer feeding sites. Sponsors can increase participation by improving the quality of meals and keeping kids engaged through hands-on activities. Schools can develop continuous, year-round farm to school programming, and test out cooking techniques and recipes using local foods. Regional producers benefit from a reliable outlet for their products during the summer months. And kids and teens get fresh, healthy meals and participate in activities at meals sites, staying nourished and engaged while school is out.

-Resources-

[Farm to Summer Fact Sheet](#) - Use this fact sheet for summer meal program tips on incorporating local foods and agriculture-based activities.

[Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs](#) - This resource covers procurement basics, defining local, where to find local products, and the variety of ways child nutrition program operators can purchase locally in accordance with regulations.

[SFSP Toolkit](#) - Find local foods guidance for [state agencies](#), [sponsors](#), and [partner organizations](#), along with tips for starting a summer meals site at [farmers markets](#).

[SFSP Handbook](#) - Sponsors can find guidance on procurement and tips on targeting local foods.

[SFSP Webinar Series](#) - Listen to presenters discuss incorporating local foods in summer meals, building awareness about summer programs, engaging in partnerships that help boost participation and increase access, and more.

[Growing Gardens](#) (pdf) - A Portland, OR organization has published a helpful guide on maintaining school gardens during the summer months.

[FRAC Report](#) - Fresh from the Farm: Using Local Foods in the Afterschool and Summer Nutrition Programs, a report on extending farm to school in other child nutrition programs.

Food Safety Decision Tools

The National Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) website has added [farm food safety “decision trees”](#) to help farmers identify risks and implement food-safe practices. Nine decision trees are available, including worker hygiene, soil amendments, wildlife management, and postharvest handling. Each decision tree includes samples of recordkeeping logs and standard operating procedures, as well as template farm food safety plans. The purpose of the Decision Trees is to:

1. Help you identify risks and practices that reduce risks;
2. Prioritize the implementation of practices to use limited resources wisely;
3. Familiarize you with the terms and methods necessary to understand and follow requirements and expectations for food safety from buyers, farm markets, schools, and federal regulations.



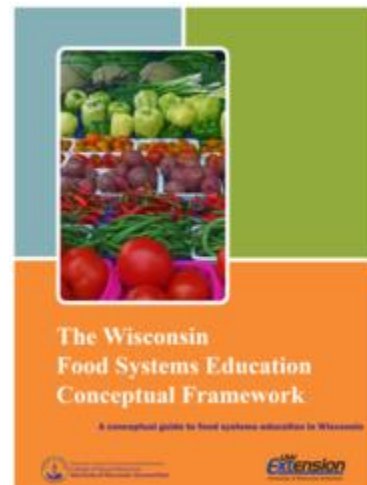
New Tools and Resources



Check out the **WSGI July newsletter**! We are so excited to talk about compost this month - you'll find resources for starting and maintaining a school compost, ideas for compost-centered lessons, and connections between compost and Green and Healthy Schools. You can find the newsletter online [here](#).

Wisconsin Food Systems Education Conceptual Framework

The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education and UW Extension are pleased to announce the recently released Wisconsin Food Systems Education Conceptual Framework! This document is a guide and reference for formal and non-formal educators, whether they are updating existing pK-12 curricula, creating a new curriculum, or developing community programming for food systems education.



Michigan Farm to Early Childcare Guide

New! [Farm to Early Childhood Programs: A Step-By-Step Guide](#) is now available! Freely downloadable, this new guide provides tools and resources to help early childhood program providers of all types and sizes purchase and use local foods in their meals and snacks.

New Edible Schoolyard Training Videos

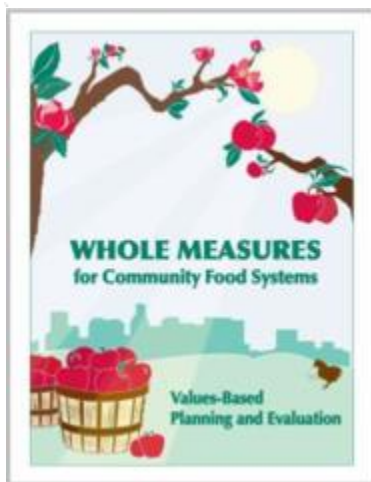
[The Edible Schoolyard](#) recently debuted a new series of professional development videos with great tips for creating effective and inspiring learning environments – indoors and out. [Watch the first three videos](#) and stay tuned for more to come this summer!



Webinars, Conferences and Events

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction [Team Nutrition Training Opportunities](#)

Following the Carrot - An Introduction to School Gardens: Have you dreamed of starting a garden at your school, but didn't know where to start? Join us for this 2-hour course where we take a journey from the seed to your cafeteria tray. We will "follow the carrot" through the process of procuring the seeds and garden materials, developing garden standard operating procedures (SOPs), identifying key community members, maintaining your garden, harvesting, and promoting your homegrown local food in the lunchroom.



[Whole Measures for Community Food Projects](#)

Thursday, July 23, 1:00pm EST

This webinar will introduce [Whole Measure for Community Food Systems \(WM CFS\)](#), a values-based, community-oriented tool for planning and evaluation of Community Food Projects. We will talk about how CFP grantees can utilize the Whole Measures CFS frame for their annual Indicators of Success reporting, a collective impact report for all CFPs, as well as a tool for community organizing. This will be an introductory webinar geared towards existing CFP grantees, and prospective grantees. [Register here.](#)

Farm to School Funding Opportunities

NEW! Notah Begay III Foundation's [Seeds of Native Health](#) Grant.

Purpose: improve Native American nutrition through capacity building, education, and research, as well as support projects that strategically target childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes prevention through healthy nutrition programs. **Funding:** up to \$40,000 each **Deadline:** July 20, 2015 at 5:00 PM MDT. All applications must be submitted through NB3F's online system.



Captain Planet Foundation Grant

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants of up to \$2,500 to school and community groups to support hands-on environmental projects. Applications are accepted twice a year. The next deadline is September 30, 2015.

The Pollination Project

The funding is meant for individuals not organizations or corporations.

The funding is meant to be seed money for passionate people to use to start a program that otherwise might not get started.

The funding must be used in vegan and animal friendly ways

- The grant guidelines are specific and limiting in ways that are important to note. Check out the full guidelines here: <https://thepollinationproject.org/funding-guidelines-for-grants/>

For more info, contact Brady at bradyripperger@gmail.com.



Let's Move Salad Bars to the Midwest

- The goal of Let's Move Salad Bars to MIDWEST Schools is to increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption by donating free salad bars to schools in Indiana.
- It's easy for schools to apply for a salad bar. Visit www.saladbars2schools.org to complete an application.
- For questions about using a salad bar to meet the meal pattern, contact your field consultant.
- Click [here](#) for resources.

- Safe Use of Salad Bars in Schools Fact Sheet - provides regulations, safety guidelines, and helpful tips when working with salad bars and
- Salad Bars in the School Nutrition Programs Fact Sheet – provides guidance on utilizing salad bars to meet the rules and regulations in the School Nutrition Programs.

Farm to School Job Openings



WI Farm to School AmeriCorps Positions now Available for the 2015-2016 School Year!

Community Outreach Members recruit and train volunteers to help with farm to school programing, participate in a community based Farm to School Task Force, conduct school tastings, develop and maintain school gardens, develop promotional materials, and work directly with farmers and Food Service Directors to bring local fresh foods into schools.

Nutrition Educators deliver nutrition and garden based education to students grades K-12. They also introduce fresh local foods through tastings, chef-in-classroom programs, and other in-class activities. They connect farmers to the classroom through in-class programing, farm visits, and special presentations. Nutrition Educators work closely with teachers, school staff, and the host site supervisor to arrange and develop lessons.

Members gain exposure to networking, planning, curriculum development, volunteer management, and more. Members also receive a living stipend, Segal Education Award upon successful program completion, travel reimbursement, and the opportunity to attend a professional state conference.

The following communities are currently recruiting for **both** Community Outreach and Nutrition Educators: Ashland, Bayfield, Beloit, Oshkosh, Prairie du Chien, Richland Center, Stevens Point, Washburn, and Whitewater

The following communities are currently recruiting for one Member: Madison (Nutrition Educator), Menasha (Nutrition Educator), Spooner (Community Outreach), and Waupaca (Community Outreach)

Please contact the Program Director Dominique Bradley at Dominique.Bradley@wisconsin.gov for more information and specify which position and location you are interested in.

School Food FOCUS seeks a Research, Data & Evaluation Manager

School Food FOCUS seeks a Manager to coordinate research, evaluation and procurement data activities across the organization. The Manager's responsibilities include:

- Oversee evaluation of FOCUS and its projects;
- Create reports that blend quantitative and qualitative findings from FOCUS programs to inform practices and educate the FOCUS network;
- Maintain and share knowledge of evolving trends, data and information vital to FOCUS' mission and operations; and
- Ensure FOCUS-generated knowledge is archived and shared within the organization and more broadly.

[Click here for the full Research, Data and Evaluation Manager job description](#)

Please forward widely, and feel free to contact Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@schoolfoodfocus.org with any questions. **Applications are due Monday, August 3.**

Farm to School Media Mentions

[FFA students at Holmen High School recognized by USDA Deputy Undersecretary](#)

WXOW-TV (LaCrosse, WI)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.